

closest, the term "partially hydrolyzed" relates to only the hydrolysis product component (and then, one in which the silane is hydrolyzed by less than one mole of water per mole of alkoxy groups).

The rejections under Section 103(a) are respectfully traversed. As described previously, the present claims provide, *inter alia*, a composition that includes both hydrolyzed and unhydrolyzed epoxy-functional alkoxy silanes, with the latter being present in an amount sufficient to reduce the viscosity of the composition itself.

Among its many other differences, Funaki fails to teach or suggest the polymerization of monomers in the manner presently provided, and instead is concerned only with the use of already formed polymers. The present Office Action essentially ignores the inclusion of monomers in this manner, and instead merely considers them to be a trivial alternative to the use of preformed polymers.

To the contrary, the use of monomers in this fashion provides a variety of benefits and features not found with polymers, particularly including improved adhesion of the composition to the surface. While not intending to be bound by theory, Applicants have found, for instance, that monomers are able to penetrate the surface of a lens in a manner that polymers cannot, and in so doing, to provide tenacious attachment of the resultant cured composition. See, for instance, page 8 lines 3 to 6 of the specification.

Finally, the rejection under Section 103 over Morrison or Tarshiani et al, in view of Perkins et al. is respectfully traversed. Neither Morrison nor Tarshiani et al., either alone or in any suitable combination, teach or suggest the various attributes of Applicant's composition as presently claimed, including the ability to cure both epoxy compounds and monomers, and the affirmative addition of an unhydrolyzed silane component in a manner sufficient to provide improved viscosity. In particular, and regardless of the various terms used to describe related compounds, it can be seen that both Morrison and Tarshiani et al. teach, at their closest, compounds analogous only to the "hydrolysis product" as presently claimed.

Morrison describes an epoxy silane, an amine hardener for the epoxy silane, and a stabilizer. The reference includes mention of the *optional* use of "aqueous prehydrolysis products" of the epoxy silanes. Morrison therefore fails to teach or suggest either the inclusion of unhydrolyzed silane in the manner presently claimed, or the ability to light cure the system, let alone the inclusion and polymerization of monomers. The current Action ignores these various distinctions, and instead merely asserts that "the incorporation of prehydrolysis product of the epoxysilane" of Morrison is "clearly suggestive" of an unhydrolyzed silane. To the contrary, Morrison itself goes on to explain what is meant by this term, e.g., at col. 8, line 46, where it makes clear that the term "prehydrolysis" product, as established at col. 3 lines 60-64, in fact refers to a silane that has indeed been hydrolyzed (that is, some or all alkoxy groups are prehydrolyzed to silanol groups). In turn, this component is analogous, at most, to Applicant's current hydrolysis product, and fails entirely to suggest the separate addition of unhydrolyzed silane.

Tarshiani et al., in turn, describe a radiation-curable composition that includes, in relevant part, a "hydrolysable" alkylalkoxysilane and a photoinitiator capable of initiating cationic cure of the resultant composition. This reference also fails to teach or suggest the affirmative inclusion of an unhydrolyzed silane component, or the polymerization of monomers in combination with the epoxy cure. With respect to this position, the current Action merely maintains that "a hydrolysable alkoxysilane is clearly suggestive of an unhydrolyzed silane". To the contrary, the reference itself makes clear that the hydrolysable silane is not used without first hydrolyzing it (e.g., as taught at col. 5, lines 15-21). Hence, as with Morrison, the ingredient contemplated by this phrase again corresponds only with Applicant's hydrolysis product, and is not at all suggestive of there being an unhydrolyzed component as well.

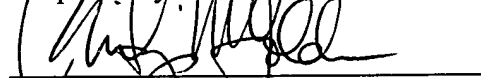
Finally, and as discussed in Applicant's own specification, Perkins et al. merely describes a coating composition containing a polyfunctional, polymerizable non-acrylate functional ether, an initiator, and colloidal silica, and hence fails to remedy the defects described above with respect to the primary references of Morrison and Tarshiani et al. In particular, the Action itself would seem to concede that Perkins et al. fails to teach or suggest the affirmative inclusion of an unhydrolyzed silane component, particularly for the purposes presently claimed. Instead, the Action merely relies upon Perkins "as showing the incorporation of monomers in epoxysilane coating applications". It can be seen, however, that Perkins is a solvent-based system, as compared to the composition of the present invention, which can be prepared and used in a solvent free manner by virtue of the addition of the unhydrolyzed component. Applicant has discovered the manner in which the unhydrolyzed component can be used to provide a solvent-free composition, in spite of the significantly increased viscosity contributed by the hydrolysis component presently claimed.

Finally, it is well established that a rejection cannot be based solely on hindsight, with the claims themselves providing a road map by which the Examiner can go to isolated teachings in order to pick and choose those features that are needed, while ignoring either the identity of those features with elements presently claimed, or the context in which they are taught.

In view of the above remarks, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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